

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/816,934	KOBAYASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tim Phan	3729	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Thiem D. Phan. (3) Linda Saltiel.
 (2) Kentaro Higuchi. (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 10 January 2007.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
 If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: Claims 1-12.

Identification of prior art discussed: Baumeister et al (US 6,369,473).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.



Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The applicants explained differences between the claimed invention and the prior art. The applicants proposed a future amendment for discussion that included the feature of the L-shaped tab. The examiner noted that the addition of this feature to Claim 2 would appear to overcome the prior art Baumeister et al (US 6,369,473). The applicants noted that they would file a subsequent response formally for consideration and the examiner would revisit the claim with further search.

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

277 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314TELEPHONE: (703) 836-6400
FACSIMILE: (703) 836-2787
E-MAIL: EMAIL@OLIFF.COM
WWW.OLIFF.COM

January 5, 2007

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEETTo: Examiner Phan
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Fax: 571-273-4568

From: Kentaro Higuchi

Your Ref.: 10/816,934

Our Ref.: 113553.01

Number of Pages Sent (Including cover sheet): 5

Prepared By: loch

Comments:

Dear Examiner Phan,

As requested, attached are an interview request form and our proposed claim amendments, which we would like to discuss during a personal interview currently scheduled at 10:00 on Wednesday, January 10. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Best regards,
Kentaro Higuchi

Sent By: LX7

This facsimile is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above and may contain privileged or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are notified that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this facsimile is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please immediately notify us by facsimile or telephone, and return the facsimile to us by mail at the above address.

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/816,934 First Named Applicant: Makoto KOBAYASHI
 Examiner: T. PHAN Art Unit: 3729 Status of Application: _____

Tentative Participants:

(1) Linda Saltiel (2) Kentaro Higuchi
 (3) _____ (4) _____

Proposed Date of Interview: Jan. 10 Proposed Time: 10:00 AM (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☐ Telephonic (2) ☒ Personal (3) ☐ Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes, provide brief description: Proposed Amendment

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>Rej.</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Baumeister et al.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Continuation Sheet Attached

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

Baumeister does not teach or suggest all of features recited in the independent claim.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____

NOTE:

This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.

(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature)

Linda M. Saltiel, Registration No. 51,122

(Examiner/SPE Signature)

PROPOSED

Application No. 10/816,934

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a centralized power distribution unit for a vehicular thin brushless motor wherein said centralized power distribution unit is formed into a ring configuration and can concentratedly distribute current to stator windings of the motor, the method comprising:

stamping out a conductive metal plate into a plurality of strips, the strips stamped out simultaneously by press molding;

bending the strips in a thickness direction into a substantially annular shape to obtain a plurality of bus bars in the form of rings, the rings being mutually different in diameter, the bus bars each having a terminal portion to be connected to a power source and one or more tabs to be connected respectively to one or more windings of the motor;

providing the bus bars correspondingly with phases of the motor;

stacking the strips in a radial direction of the centralized power distribution unit, mutually separated by a predetermined gap; and

covering the bus bars with a resin insulating layer.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of producing bus bars, comprising stamping out a conductive metal plate into a plurality of strips, the strips stamped out simultaneously by press molding; molding, each strip having a tab, the tab having an L-shaped cross-section defined by a curved section and a distal end; and

bending the plurality of strips in a thickness direction to obtain a plurality of rings, respectively, the rings being mutually different in diameter and having substantially a same center, the L-shaped tab of each of the rings being disposed such that the distal end of each tab is disposed substantially at a same distance from the center.

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3. (Original) The method of producing bus bars according to claim 2, wherein, in the step of stamping out, at least one of (a) a terminal portion and (b) one or more tabs are integrally stamped with a main body of the bus bar.

4. (Original) The method of producing bus bars according to claim 3, wherein, in the step of stamping out, the bus bars are stamped out in a state where the main bodies are laid out in parallel, and in a state where both ends of the main bodies are substantially aligned with one another.

5. (Original) The method of producing bus bars according to claim 2, wherein, in the step of stamping out, a terminal portion and one or more tabs are integrally stamped with a main body of the bus bar.

6. (Original) The method of producing bus bars according to claim 5, wherein, in the step of stamping out, the terminal portion and the one or more tabs of a predetermined one of the bus bars are laid out to be directed to a center of a row of the bus bars, the predetermined one of the bus bars being positioned at an outermost side among the bus bars which are placed in parallel.

7. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a centralized power distribution unit wherein said centralized power distribution unit is formed into a ring configuration and can concentratedly distribute current to stator windings of a motor, the method comprising:

stamping out a conductive metal plate into a plurality of strips, the strips stamped out simultaneously by press molding;

bending the strips in a thickness direction to obtain a plurality of rings, the rings being mutually different in diameter; and

stacking the strips in a radial direction of the centralized power distribution unit mutually, separated by a predetermined gap.

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8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 7, wherein each bus bar includes a terminal portion that connects to a power source, further comprising bending the terminal portion into a bent configuration.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein bending at least one of the terminal portions comprises bending the terminal portion such that the at least one of the terminal portions includes a first section extending in a first direction that is a substantially radial direction of the centralized power distribution unit, a second section extending in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, and a ramp section connecting the first and second sections and extending in a third direction that is different from the first and second directions.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, further comprising providing at least one slit in at least one of the terminal portions.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, further comprising a section of the at least one of the terminal portions by a sealing material, wherein the at least one slit is provided in the section covered by the sealing material.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the at least one slit extends in a longitudinal direction of the terminal portion.